

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claim 1 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of processing data recorded on a recording medium, the recording medium including a plurality of zones forming a group, to manage defects at a group level, a spare area at an end of the group and not in the plurality of zones for replacing defects for the plurality of zones of the group, and start position information for each zone in a predetermined area of the recording medium, the method comprising:

reading the start position information from the predetermined area of the recording medium, with the predetermined area having the start position information for each zone, the start position information storing a start logical sector number for each of the zones; and

accessing the data recorded on the recording medium,

wherein at least one of the start position information is determined according to a number of defective ~~area~~ areas generated in ~~a~~ the group upon initialization.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing the data comprises determining a logical start position for one of the zones having the data to be accessed according to the corresponding start logical sector number recorded in the start position information read from the predetermined area of the recording medium.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, wherein the accessing the data comprises selecting the zone having the data to be accessed, and determining from the read start position information the one of the start logical sector numbers corresponding to the selected zone.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein, for each of the plurality of zones, the start logical sector number recorded in the start position information is different.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing the data comprises:

accessing first data recorded in a first one of the zones according to a first one of the

start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information, and
accessing second data from a second one of the zones other than the first one of the zones according to a second one of the start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information.

7-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the spare area is not between adjacent pairs of the zones of the group.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein the accessing the data comprises determining a logical start position for one of the zones having the data to be accessed according to the corresponding start logical sector number recorded in the start position information read from the predetermined area of the recording medium

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 12, wherein the accessing the data comprises selecting the zone having the data to be accessed, and determining from the read start position information the one of the start logical sector numbers corresponding to the selected zone

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein, for each of the plurality of zones, the start logical sector number recorded in the start position information is different.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein the accessing the data comprises:

accessing first data recorded in a first one of the zones according to a first one of the start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information, and

accessing second data from a second one of the zones other than the first one of the zones according to a second one of the start logical sector numbers recorded in the read start position information.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the end is a start portion of the group disposed before the zones.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the end is an end portion disposed after the zones.

18-20. (CANCELLED)